



NC COMMISSION ON VOLUNTEERISM AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
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For Release: IMMEDIATE
Date: April 1, 2002

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GRANTS AVAILABLE TO BOOST HOMELAND SECURITY
\$5 Million in Federal Funds To Be Awarded Nationwide

RALEIGH—The Washington, D.C.-based Corporation for National and Community Service is making \$5 million in federal grants available to strengthen homeland security efforts. The grants will be used to place AmeriCorps members with agencies that address issues related to public safety, public health, and disaster preparedness and relief.

North Carolina organizations wanting to obtain an application should call the N.C. Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service at (919) 715-3470 or (800) 820-4483 or download it from the Commission's Web site at www.volunteernc.org. Applications are due April 19 at 3:00 p.m.

Ten to 15 grants ranging from \$200,000-\$750,000 will be awarded nationwide. The Commission will review the completed applications and submit one or more nominations to the Corporation, which will announce its selections in late June.

Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to attend a Commission-sponsored grant-writing workshop in Raleigh on April 9. The workshop is free, although pre-registration is required.

“Now more than ever, we appreciate the sacrifices made by the police officers, firefighters, and emergency response personnel who put their lives on the line to protect our communities,” said Will Lindsay, the Commission’s Executive Director. “These homeland security grants will enable us to make our communities safer.”

More than 50,000 Americans currently serve in AmeriCorps, a domestic version of the Peace Corps created in 1993 to address educational, public safety, environmental and human service needs. Thousands serve in homeland security-related capacities.

For example, AmeriCorps members organize safety patrols and assist law enforcement agencies with fingerprinting and other tasks, freeing officers to do front line work. They help immunize children, provide health screenings, and distribute health information. They also help communities respond to natural disasters by running emergency shelters, managing donations, and assessing and repairing damages.

(To request an application and/or register for the April 9 workshop, contact Toya Crichlow, N.C. Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, at 919-715-3470 or 800-820-4483)